

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FMC-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

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R 141250Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1979

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HAMBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 2066

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRN, SW

SUBJECT: SWEDISH DOCKWORKERS STRIKE ENDS

REF: STOCKHOLM 1785; 1938

1. SWEDISH DOCKWORKERSSTRIKE ENDED MAY 13 WITH ALL PORTS BACK TO NORMAL. TWO WEEK STRIKE CALLED OFF BY VOTE OF INDEPENDENT HARBORWORKERS UNION MAY 12.

2. RETURN TO WORK WAS CLEAR LOSS FOR HARBORWORKERS UNION WHICH, ALTHOUGH REPRESENTING MAJORITY OF COUNTRY'S DOCKWORKERS, FAILED IN FIRST DIRECT CONFRONTATION WITH LO DOCKWORKERS AND EMPLOYERS TO OBTAIN UNION RECOGNITION THROUGH OWN COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT. RETURN TO WORK DICATED BY (1) FEELING OF POWERLESSNESS IN FACE OF TRANSPORTWORKERS MUSCLE, SUPPORTED BY L, USED IN FORCING EMPLOYERS' ACQUIESANCE TO NATIONWIDE UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREEMENT (2) RELATIVE LACK OF RESOURCES FOR WAGING

LENGTHLY STRIKE WHICH APPEARED TO BE ONLY WAY OF WINNING UNION RECOGNITION (3) POTENTIAL EFFECTS UPON EMPLOYEMENT IN OTHER AREAS OF PROTRACTED PORT CLOSURES. IN CONSENSUS-CONSCIOUS SWEDEN FEELING IS THAT ANY STRIKE WOULD NOT RPT NOT AFFECT UNINVOLVED THIRD PARTIES. SEVERAL MAJOR EMPLOYERS IN SWEDEN HAD ALREADY ISSUED LAYOFF NOTICES IF STRIKE WERE TO CONTINUE, INCREASING PRESSURE - AND AFFORDING FACE-SAVING DEVICE - FOR HARBORWORKERS TO RETURN TO WORK.

3. HARBORWORKERS' UNION HAS INSTRUCTED ITS MEMBERS TO FOLLOW CONDITION OF TRANSPORTWORKERS AGREEMENT. CONCEDE THAT ECONOMIC GAINS ARE CONSIDERABLE - DUE IN LARGE PART TO HARBORWORKERS STRIKE - BUT BITTER OVER MANDATORY OVERTIME PROVISIONS. PERIODIC SITDOWNS LIKELY IF EMPLOYERS TRY TO INVOKE MANDATORY OVERTIME IN EXCESS OF WHAT INDIVIDUAL PORTS CONSIDER REASON-ABLE.

4. FOLLOWING HARBORWORKERS FAILURE TO WIN RECOGNITION, SLIM POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR RE-ENTRY INTO TRANSPORTWORKERS WILL TAKE PLACE EVEN THOUGH RESENTMENT AGAINST LO AND TRANSPORTWORKERS RUNS DEEP. ITEM ON HARBORWORKERS CONGRESS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST.

5. COMMENT: LO AND EMPLOYERS WERE RELATIVELY SILENT DURING EARLY STAGES OF HARBORWORKERS SPLIT FROM TRANSPORTWORKERS. HOWEVER, WHEN THE CRUNCH CAME LO MADE IT CLEAR THAT SIGNING OF CONTRACT BY EMPLOYERS WITH BREAKAWAY UNION WOULD BE AN UNFRIENDLY ACT. DESPITE RETURN TO WORK, FEELING AMONG DISSIDENT DOCKERS AGAINST TRANSPORTWORKERS, AND PRESIDENT HANS ERICSON IN PARTICULAR, RUNS DEEP. VOTE IN SEVERAL PORTS, INCLUDING STOCKHOLM, WAS AGAINST RETURN TO WORK. ALTHOUGH TRANSPORTWORKERS WON THIS ROUND AND MAY HAVE EFFECTIVELY CRUSHED ORGANIZED INSURGENT MOVEMENT, POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE TROUBLE ON THE DOCKS REMAINS. GUTHRIE

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